

Serial No.: 09/683,405
Attorney Docket No.: 3447

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claim 31 in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, on pages 2 ([0011]), 18 ([0077]) and 20 ([0086]) of the Specification. Applicants submit that no new matter is presented by this amendment and respectfully request entry of the same.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be Withdrawn

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Kacian (US 5,364,763; 1994) in view of Lockhart et al. (US 6,040,138; 2000). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action. However, solely to expedite issuance of the Claims, Applicants have amended Claim 31 in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, on pages 2 ([0011]), 18 ([0077]) and 20 ([0086]) of the Specification. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicants also submit that in view of the above amendment, the objections to Claims 35-40 are obviated.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, Applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue.

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If the Examiner has any questions pertaining to this application or feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 731-5000.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 01-0431.

Respectfully submitted,



Wei Zhou
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Dated: June 8, 2004

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